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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/554,048

10/24/2005

Hans-Juergen Dobschal

P70853US0

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EXAMINER

BOOSALIS, FANI POLYZOS

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2884

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/16/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/554,048	DOBSCHAL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Faye Boosalis	2884	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 18-26 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 October 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see 9-14 and pages 1-4, filed 1 February 2008, with respect to claims 9-17 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 9-17 has been withdrawn.

Response to Amendment

2. Amendment to claims has been entered.

Double Patenting

3. Claims 18-26 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claims 9-17. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 9-17 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 9, the prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest an apparatus for inspecting a mask used in microlithography, the apparatus comprising: an arrangement wherein an illuminating source and a converter means are both disposed inside a vacuum chamber; a sensor means disposed outside the vacuum chamber and an optical interface, being arranged as a vacuum window in the vacuum chamber, from the vacuum chamber to the sensor means.

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The examiner notes that while it is known in the art an apparatus for inspecting a mask used in lithography, the apparatus comprising: a vacuum chamber (11); illuminating means (16) disposed inside the vacuum chamber (11); a converter means (10) disposed outside the vacuum chamber; a sensor means (10) being disposed outside the vacuum chamber (11); and an optical interface (9) from the vacuum chamber (11) to the sensor means (10), the optical interface being arranged as a vacuum window in the vacuum chamber (Hayashi et al -- US 2005/0030537 A1 -- see for example Fig 1, Abstract and paragraphs [0028]-[0030] and [0071]), the prior art does not suggest the converter means, for converting an image in EUV emitted by the mask into an image in radiation of a longer wavelength, being disposed inside the vacuum chamber.

The remaining claims 10-17 are allowable based on their dependency.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Amemiya et al (US 7,312,459 B2) discloses an apparatus and method for evaluating

EUV light source comprising: a vacuum chamber (15) wherein a mask is disposed within the vacuum chamber; an EUV light source (17) arranged outside the chamber (15) projects pulse laser light upon a target material; the EUV light is absorbed by fluorescent substance 9 is converted into fluorescent light which is visible light and by imaging it upon a CCD (13), located outside the chamber

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(15), through a glass substrate and a view port (11) (vacuum window) (See Fig. 8 and col. 5, lines 28-41).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faye Boosalis whose telephone number is 571-272-2447. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Porta can be reached on 571-272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

FB
/CHRISTINE SUNG/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2884